

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

NSAE-00 CIAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

----- 068032

O 242037Z OCT 73 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8266

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15408

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, GW

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRG CONCERNS RE US SHIPMENTS OF
MILITARY MATERIAL TO ISRAEL FROM FRG

REF: BONN 15333

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER CASH (IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE)
CALLED ON STATE SECRETARY FRANK LATE OCTOBER 24 AT
LATTER'S REQUEST. FRANK MADE STRONGLY-WORDED REQUEST,
IN FOLLOW-UP TO HIS DISCUSSION PREVIOUS DAY WITH
AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND (REFTEL), THAT US CEASE
RESUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH MILITARY GOODS FROM FRG. HE
SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED THE ISRAELI
SHIP NOW LOADING US MILITARY MATERIAL IN BREMERHAVEN
TO DEPART ASAP. HE SAID THAT NO OTHER ISRAELI SHIPS
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ON FURTHER MILITARY CARGO IN
BREMERHAVEN. FRANK SAID FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES
THAT, IN VIEW OF SECOND CEASEFIRE, THERE IS NO FURTHER
NEED FOR GERMAN TERRITORY TO BE USED BY ISRAELI OR ANY
OTHER CARRIERS TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL. ASKED IF US SHIPS
COULD CARRY TO ISRAEL AMMO AND OTHER MATERIAL NOW IN
BREMERHAVEN, FRANK SAID FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT
WISH THIS TO HAPPEN, BELIEVING IT NO LONGER NECESSARY
AND HARMFUL TO FRG-ARAB RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. FRANK STATED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMED,
NOW THE SECOND CEASEFIRE WAS IN EFFECT, THAT NO FURTHER
RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL INVOLVING THE FRG IN ANY WAY WOULD BE
REQUIRED. HE COMMENTED THAT, FOLLOWING HIS OCTOBER 23

TALK WITH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND (REFTEL), THE FEDERAL GOV'T HAD LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME ISRAELI SHIPS UNDER ISRAELI FLAGS WERE PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN SHIPPING US MILITARY MATERIAL FROM BREMERHAVEN. HE NOTED THAT ONE SHIP HAD LOADED AND DEPARTED OCTOBER 23, ANOTHER WAS LOADING NOW AND WOULD BE DEPARTING SOONEST, A THIRD SHIP WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE OCTOBER 25 TO TAKE ON AMMUNITION, AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT ONE OR TWO MORE ISRAELI SHIPS WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AFTER THAT.

3. FRANK SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS SERIOUSLY DISTURBED BY THE LACK OF POLITICAL INSTINCT INVOLVED IN THE ISRAELI'S USING AN FRG PORT TO LOAD US ARMS AND MILITARY CARGO. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS EITHER AN INDICATION OF FOOLISHNESS ON SOMEONE'S PART OR A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO PUSH THE FRG OUT OF ITS POSITION OF NEUTRALITY TOWARDS THE ARMED CONFLICT IN THE MID-EAST. HE ASKED THAT THE USG TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IMMEDIATELY TO PUT AN END TO THE SHIPPING OF US MATERIAL AND WEAPONS. HE SAID INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE ONE SHIP PRESENTLY LOADING TO COMPLETE ITS WORK AND DEPART ASAP. THE OTHER SHIP ARRIVING TO TAKE ON AMMO WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ALLOWED TO LOAD THAT CARGO.

4. FRANK SAID THAT THE GERMAN POSITION WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT IT HAD WANTED TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING FOR THE EMERGENCY SITUATION AT THE OUTSET OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND HAD BEEN WILLING TO CLOSE ITS EYES TO THE US EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FELT THE EMERGENCY ASPECT WAS NO LONGER VALID NOW THAT A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY STRESSING THAT HE DID NOT WISH THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE PRESENT SHIPPING OF US MILITARY GOODS TO ISRAEL FROM THE FRG IN ISRAELI SHIPS TO BURDEN EITHER US-FRG RELATIONS OR FRG-ARAB RELATIONS.

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5. MINISTER CASH STATED THAT, FIRST OF ALL, THE US EMBASSY HAD BEEN PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION, BASED ON AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S OCTOBER 16 TALK WITH FONMIN SCHEEL, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE US RESUPPLY OPERATION WITH FULL UNDERSTANDING. FRANK INTERJECTED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE THEN, BUT THE HEAT HAD SINCE GONE OUT OF THE SITUATION. US MINISTER THEN NOTED THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE FRG AUTHORITIES.....
GDS
HILLENBRAND

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EXDIS

HAD BEEN INFORMED PREVIOUSLY ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE SHIPPING OPERATION. (FYI: THIS WAS BASED ON JCS/J4 MESSAGE 5822 DATED 182127Z OCT, 73, PARA 4. END FYI.) FRANK SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NOT GIVEN ANY SUCH CLEARANCE.

6. US MINISTER SAID US SIDE HAD ALSO RECOGNIZED EARLY THAT USE OF ISRAELI SHIPS COULD POSE PROBLEMS AND HAD SOUGHT TO FIND CHARTERS OR OTHERS. HOWEVER, ONLY ISRAELI SHIPS SEEMED TO BE AVAILABLE AND THUS, IN VIEW OF EMERGENCY SITUATION, HAD UNDERTAKEN THE RESUPPLY OPERATION OUT OF BREMERHAVEN.

7. US MINISTER ASKED FRANK WHETHER SHIPMENT OF AMMO AND REMAINING MATERIAL FROM BREMERHAVEN BY US SHIPS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT OF FRANK'S OPPOSITION TO ANY ISRAELI BOTTOMS' INVOLVEMENT. FRANK SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW SAW NO FURTHER REASON FOR FRG TERRITORY OR AIRSPACE TO BE USED FOR RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. MINISTER CASH SAID FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO BE PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CEASEFIRE WAS WORKING AND THAT THE DIFFICULT ISRAELI SITUATION NOW REQUIRED NO FURTHER RESUPPLY EFFORT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THIS WAS THE CASE. FRANK EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT THE ISRAELIS STILL HAD A PROBLEM THAT CALLED FOR THE FAST RESUPPLY ACTION RE-SECRET

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QUIRED BEFORE.

8. FRANK CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING EMPHATICALLY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTED TO STAY ENTIRELY OUT OF THE MILITARY CONFLICT; IT DID NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. HE WAS ALREADY CON-

CERNED THAT THE ISRAELI SHIPMENTS FROM BREMERHAVEN WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY, AND WOULD HARM FRG, US, AND ALSO ISRAELI INTERESTS. US MINISTER EXPRESSED SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR FRG POSITION BUT STRESSED THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL HAD FOR THE US AND ASKED THE FRG TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THESE AS WELL.

9. COMMENT: FRANK SPOKE FORCEFULLY YET REASONABLY, AND APPEARED TO BE REFLECTING A CLEAR GOVERNMENT POSITION. CERTAINLY HIS ORDERS TO THE ISRAELI SHIP AND BREMERHAVEN PORT AUTHORITIES ARE UNEQUIVOCAL. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE HOPING THAT THE MID-EAST CRISIS IS NOW OVER AND THAT IT CAN MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS BY NOT PERMITTING FURTHER MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL FROM THE FRG AT THIS LATE DATE.

10. IF DEPARTMENT WANTS TO TURN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AROUND ON THIS ISSUE, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PRESENT VERY CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELIS STILL URGENTLY REQUIRE THE AMMO AND GOODS IN GERMANY. WITHOUT THIS EVIDENCE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE HARD TO MOVE FROM ITS PRESENT STANCE.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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